



**KING EDWARD VI COLLEGE**

STOURBRIDGE

— EST. 1552 —

# English Literature Subject Information

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English literature



# Course outline

## LITERATURE IS HUMANITY TALKING TO ITSELF

NORMAN RUSH

PICTUREQUOTES.COM

- **Paper 1: Drama (30%)**
  - *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams (year 12)
  - A tragedy by William Shakespeare + Shakespeare Critical Anthology (year 13) (we are currently in discussions about a change of text and you will be told which text you will study at the end of year 12)
- **Paper 2: Prose (20%)**
  - *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini (year 12)
  - *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte (year 12)
- **Paper 3: Poetry (30%)**
  - *Poems of the Decade* (year 12) + unseen poetry (year 12 and year 13)
  - English Romantic Verse (year 13)
- **Paper 4: coursework (20%)**
  - *The Great Gatsby* + one other text of your choice (year 13)
  - (2500 – 3000 word comparative essay linked by either theme, author, movement or period)



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# Exam information



- Pearson Edexcel examination board
- Open book exams so you can take your texts into the exam room (except the Shakespeare critical anthology) but texts cannot be annotated
- 2 x 2 hour 15 minute exams (drama and poetry)
- 1 x 1 hour 15 minute exam (prose)
- 1 coursework essay



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# Texts

- Your set texts will be distributed to you in September along with a copy of our work packs.
- You must not deface or annotate your texts. If you like to annotate, please acquire your own copies and use the clean college editions for the examinations.



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# What you need to bring to lessons

- The required texts (which will be supplied by the department in September)
- The required work pack (which will be supplied by the department)
- Notebook/file paper
- Pens, pencils, coloured highlighters etc.
- A dedicated folder for work packs and additional hand outs



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# How you will be taught

In English lessons you will work in many different ways, but in general you will work mostly through discussion and writing activities. This may mean that you'll do group work, pair work and individual work too. The type of activities will depend very much on the text you are studying at the time, so that, for example:

- If you are doing a play, you might act out scenes and discuss them.
- You might role-play scenes between characters in a novel to predict or reflect upon the plot and characters.
- You might be asked to find out about a writer or topic by using the college library resources.
- You may have opportunities to discuss draft copies of essays with your teacher and/or other students.
- We try to arrange trips to see plays at the theatre and we organise to see writers or attend conferences or talks where possible. These are really useful for your study during the course and make the texts more enjoyable.



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# Homework & Independence



- The time you spend doing English work outside lessons is very important. It is essential that you do not see it as separate from your work in lessons, but linked to that work very closely. You will have time in the college day to work on your A level subjects.
- You should spend about five hours a week on independent study. Sometimes this will be taken up with writing an essay, completing some reading set by your teacher, or completing a homework task. At times though you will be expected to work more independently, for example, writing up notes after discussion of a topic covered in class. The notes you jot down at the time often don't make much sense later so it's a good idea regularly to go over what you did in class and write up the key things that you learnt for exam revision later on.



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# Summer homework

- You **must** read *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini and *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte.
- You **must** also complete the three tasks on the opening of *A Thousand Splendid Suns*.
- It is highly recommended that you also read *The Great Gatsby*. You will start work on coursework early in year 12 and will be expected to undertake reading and research tasks entirely independently (as mandated by the exam board).

The accompanying pack has more information on the above and other recommended but not compulsory work you could complete.



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# Checklist

- I have read this PowerPoint and the accompanying pack from the English literature department.
- I have read *A Thousand Splendid Suns* and *Wuthering Heights* and/or listened to these on audio.
- I have completed the 3 tasks on the opening of *A Thousand Splendid Suns* to the best of my ability and have notes ready to take to my first English lesson.

